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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Foreign Radios

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SUBJECT World Radio Reactions to President
Truman's Message of 17 March

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SOURCE Foreign Radio Broadcasts

INTRODUCTION: The volume of world radio attention to Truman's message is steadily increasing. Most reactions, however, still appear primarily in reports of press opinion or of statements by important "spokesmen." Moscow maintains its original reticence; but its satellites are not so cautious. Consistently hostile in what they say, however, a uniform propaganda line has not yet been evidenced--except for the implicit or explicit charge of "warmongering." As initially, most comment tends to equate the President's proposals with already-established American policy; Oslo's AFTONPOSTEN, for example, is somewhat representative in saying that his "speech was... not to be misunderstood on a single point. America is ready to act... if necessary and to take such concrete steps as the situation may demand at all times." Qualifications are beginning to appear, however, both with respect to Congressional action and to other "shortcomings."

DECISIVE STAND FOR DEMOCRACY, AGAINST SOVIET EXPANSION: These corollary themes are highlighted in practically all of the favorable comment received. Stockholm reports "typical headlines" in the Swedish press: "Western Pact Guarantees European Peace and Security"; and "Russian Policy Sharply Attacked." Norwegian papers "carrying such bold headlines as 'Truman Says Halt to Communism' clearly reflects the general opinion," says AFP. Blum's LE POPULAIRE considers it a "very serious warning to the USSR," although not a "categorical 'halt Stalin' statement." A British commentator says it is generally felt that the speech and the treaty of Brussels "point to one grim conclusion,... that now or

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never is the time to say to Russia 'that far and no further.' ... The West has decided to stand." And the Vatican's *OSSERVATORE ROMANO* considers it a "political ultimatum." More or less similar statements come from Canada, Latin America, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Japan, and China.

QUALIFICATIONS, AND "SHORTCOMINGS": Qualifications to otherwise vigorous statements of approval come primarily from sources in Britain and France. As reported by the ABC, for example, the *TIMES* sees "the chief risk" in the "danger of what might happen if the American Congress and people do not do promptly what Mr. Truman has asked them to do." Along a similar line, the Paris radio reports on analysis by the Director of *PARIS PRESS* to the effect that "one shortcoming" is that "the Truman speech is without immediate material efficacy for the European situation." And Llum's *LE POPULAIRE* considers that "Truman's defense measures... are not adapted to dealing with the strategic weapons of the USSR,... the popular masses stirred up by the Communist Party and workers' unions under Communist control"--to which the only defense is that mobilized by the citizens themselves. There have also been occasional references to the subject of American military guarantees to Europe--some reflecting disappointment because they were not explicitly proposed, and others wondering whether, or hoping that, they will be forthcoming.

As to Truman's message and the possibility of war, the consensus of non-Soviet and non-satellite opinion is that the issue is now up to the Kremlin; suggestions and hopes that the USSR's "hard-headed realists" will head the expressed determination to stop further Soviet and Communist expansion are frequent.

"WALLONGING": The only Moscow commentary on Truman's message appears in a broadcast attacking the Brussels treaty. Lenin, the commentator, denies "Truman's... claim that the economic recovery of Europe is impossible without a military alliance. Actually, however, economic cooperation under the Marshall Plan is only an appendage to military and political cooperation which is being arranged under the direction of the U.S. militarists." TASS also reports (to Europe) the American All-Slav Congress' message of protest to the effect that Truman's recommendations "would contribute to the artificial war hysteria"; and Soviet domestic audiences hear about the negative reactions of "progressive Americans" to the President's message.

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Comment from radios in the Soviet sphere of Europe attempts to identify Truman's speech with the charge, as claimed by the Hungarian radio, that "the fostering of war psychosis is going on at full blast in the west." American "militarization" and "warmongering" is contrasted to the USSR's recently reported demobilization. In Italy, Togliatti is reported to have said that the speech "confirms what we have been saying for months--that the policy of the President... is one of active preparation for war." Kreni is less violent and "expressed surprise at the deliberate attempt to present Soviet policy and the movement of the proletariat as one and the same thing." The Prague radio is the only one to have picked up Gromyko's assertion that the speech was designed for internal propaganda purposes. The satellite radios (and Moscow as well) show a much greater tendency to report the attack delivered by Henry Wallace.

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